

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 1, 14, and 16 are amended, and claims 18-20 are added. Claims 1 and 16 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in the Office Action in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-2, 4, and 11-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Spector (U.S. 6,017,049) in view of Swanson et al. (U.S. 6,009,563) and further in view of O'Neill, Jr. (U.S. 6,069,588); and

Claims 3, 5-10, and 15-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Spector (U.S. 6,017,049) in view of Swanson et al. (U.S. 6,009,563) and O'Neill, Jr. (U.S. 6,069,588) and in further view of Heddle et al. (U.S. 5,703,794). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Amendments to Independent Claims 1 and 16

While not conceding the appropriateness of the rejections, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, independent claims 1 and 16 are amended herein to recite combinations of elements directed to a radio communication system for a vehicle wherein a radio wave transmitter-receiver includes a pair of operation buttons disposed one above

another on one side of a rear face of thereof, when said radio wave transmitter-receiver is mounted in a predetermined posture at the center of the rear portion of each helmet.

Full support for said radio wave transmitter-receiver 73 includes a pair of operation buttons 801, 805 disposed one above another on one side of a rear face of the radio transmitter-receiver, when said radio wave transmitter-receiver 73 is mounted in a predetermined posture at the center of the rear portion of each helmet 70, can be found in the specification, for example, in the paragraph beginning on page 6, lines 4-18. See also FIG. 3.

As pointed out on page 18, beginning at line 25 of the specification, the present invention achieves numerous positive effect including:

(1) Since operation buttons of the transmitter-receiver to be mounted on each helmet are provided on a comparatively wide face which is positioned on a rear face where the transmitter-receiver is mounted at the center of a rear portion of the helmet, the operation buttons can be formed with a larger size and can be operated readily and accurately even if a glove is worn on a hand.

In contrast to the present invention as set forth in claims 1 and 16, none of the references cited by the Examiner including Spector, Swanson et al., O'Neill, Jr., and Heddle et al. teaches or suggest a pair of operation buttons disposed one above another on one side of a rear face of the radio transmitter-receiver, when said radio wave transmitter-receiver is mounted in a predetermined posture at the center of the rear portion of each helmet.

For example, each of Spector, Swanson et al., O'Neill, Jr., and Heddle et al. is silent about a pair of operation buttons disposed one above another on one side of a rear face of the radio transmitter-receiver..

Dependent Claims 14 and 18-20

Amended claim 14 and added claim 18 recite the operation buttons are a volume control switch and a power supply switch. In addition, added claims 19 and 20 recite said radio wave transmitter-receiver has a coil antenna accommodated along an upper inner side of a case of the radio transmitter-receiver.

The Applicants respectfully submit that the each of Spector, Swanson et al., O'Neill, Jr., and Heddle et al. is silent about the above novel features.

In view of the amendments and arguments described above, it is respectfully submitted that the cited references, taken alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the novel combination of elements recited in independent claims 1 and 16 of the present application. Accordingly, independent claims 1 and 16, as well as the claims depending therefrom, are in condition for allowance; and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are, therefore, respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject claims, but merely to show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

Serial No. 09/655,846
Amendment filed on February 26, 2004
Reply to Office Action dated December 11, 2003

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All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

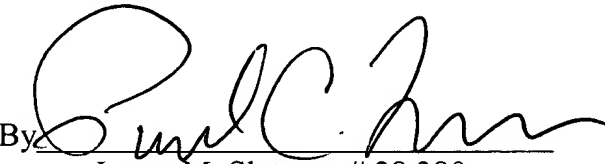
If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 205-8000.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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